

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 IO-10 OMB-01 AID-05

SAM-01 /076 W

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O P 301000Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3485

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0493

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI AO

SUBJECT: URBAN FIGHTING ERUPTS AGAIN IN LUANDA

1. DURING THE EVENING OF APRIL 28 FIGHTING AGAIN BROKE OUT BETWEEN MPLA AND FNLA IN LUANDA. SHOOTING, INCLUDING MORTARS, HEAVY MACHINE GUN AND ROCKET GRENADES, CONTINUED MOST OF THE NIGHT WITH NUMEROUS INCIDENTS REPORTED IN THE BLACK GHETTOS AND ON THE FRINGES OF THE EUROPEAN SECTOR. SHOOTING SLACKENED OFF AROUND 0800 APRIL 29, BUT INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED DURING THE DAY. MAJOR CLASHES BEGAN ANEW AT DUSK, LASTING AT LEAST UNTIL MIDNIGHT, AND AGAIN FOR AN HOUR AT DAWN ON APRIL 30.

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2. THE APRIL 29-30 FIGHTING SPREAD INTO THE EUROPEAN SECTOR OF

THE CITY. MPLA FORCES LAUNCHED AN ATTACK UPON THE FORMER HQ OF THE ANGOLAN MILITIA, RECENTLY OCCUPIED BY FNLA. THIS BUILDING IS LOCATED THREE HOUSES FROM THE RESIDENCE OF THE ECONOMIC OFFICER AND TWO BLOCKS FROM THE CRO. THE SHOOTING WAS INTENSE FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND THE ECONOMIC OFFICER AND HIS FAMILY ELECTED TO SPEND THE EVENING SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR IN THE CENTRAL HALLWAY.

3. AN APPEAL FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMISSION ISSUED ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 29, CALLED FOR ALL THE GROUPS TO CEASE HOSTILITIES AND TO RETURN TO THE BARRACKS. ALTHOUGH THE APPEAL WAS SIGNED BY THE MILITARY CHIEFS OF ALL THREE LIBERATION ARMIES IT WAS COMPLETELY IGNORED BY THEIR TROOPS, WHO INSTEAD STEPPED UP THEIR ATTACKS ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 29-30. RADIO APPEALS FOR BLOOD DONORS AND FOR DOCTORS AND NURSES TO REPORT TO HOSPITALS WERE BROADCAST STARTING ABOUT 2200 ON APRIL 29, INDICATING THERE WAS HEAVY CASUALTIES. FIGHTING IS CONTINUING AS THIS REPORT IS WRITTEN.

4. HARD FACTS AS TO WHO INITIATED THE SHOOTING, WHY AND WHEN IT WILL END ARE HARD TO COME BY. WE WILL FOLLOW THIS REPORT UP WITH AN ASSESSMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

KILLORAN

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